

## NEWS IN BRIEF

**ST. PETERSBURG, Fla.** — *Golf Course News* Publisher Charles von Brecht has announced that Mary Anderson has joined the newspaper as a sales assistant. She will work directly with Simone Marsteller until the middle of August, when Marsteller will leave *Golf Course News* to enter Stetson Law School. Anderson has a bachelor of arts in mass communications, with a minor in business, from the University of South Florida.

**WARREN, Mich.** — Officials and townspeople here have questions for Mayor Ronald Bonkowski about his plan for the city to purchase more than 300 vacant acres (valued at \$12 million) from General Motors Corp. for an \$80 million golf and residential complex. The town will hold future meetings to hear the plan's feasibility and financing.

**MIDLOTHIAN, Va.** — The directors of Forecast Golf Marketing and Financial Systems, Inc. have elected James Murphy to the position of president, replacing Scott Marlowe, who has left the company to pursue other interests. For the last three years Murphy served as the firm's vice president and director of marketing. Forecast has also moved its corporate offices to 1403 Huguenot Road, #103, Midlothian, VA, 23113. Forecast's phone (804-379-5760) and fax (804-378-4907) numbers have not changed.

## No pipedream: The ultimate practice facility is here

By MARK LESLIE

CINCINNATI, Ohio — The ultimate golf facility is in the ground. So says course architect Mike Hurdzan, whose latest venture into executive golf course design opened June 7 as part of Meadow Links and Golf Academy in Hamilton County's Winton Woods Park here.

"This is the ideal learning center," said the Columbus-based Hurdzan. "We have another one in construction in Vancouver [British Columbia] and one in its first phase in Grand Rapids, Mich.

"This is the model of what we would be building," he laughed, "if I were made king."

Hurdzan names five requisites for his perfect learning center:

1) A full-sized 18-hole golf course that plays to par 71 or 72 and measures from 5,000 to 7,200 yards.

"But that only appeals to golfers. If we get smart — and we must — we have to allow for the entry-level experience. How are we going to do that?" Hurdzan asked.

Ski areas have bunny slopes, he said. "But where are the bunny slopes in golf? We don't have one, so we throw people out into a regulation course. It's like trying to learn to surf at the Pipeline."

Accompany the 18-hole course with "the ideal entry-level golf situation — a driving range," he said. There the golfer learns the mechanics of hitting the ball and putting.

2) A short-game center, where golfers learn to play 20 yards out from the green — "over bunkers, out of bunkers, through bunkers," Hurdzan said. "You play to a green and learn to hit all kinds of shots."



The lush, almost gothic first hole at Winton Woods in Hamilton County, Ohio, appears to be anything but a scaled down, rinky-dink design.

3) A large putting green. Part of it should be flat where golfers can learn to make a proper stroke; and part of it should be undulating so they can learn to read breaks.

4) Practice holes. "This is where you learn the etiquette of who goes first, where you stand, how to tee up, rake bunkers, who holds the flag..."

5) The executive golf course. "This is sort of what the intermediate slope is in skiing," Hurdzan said. "You're not intimidated by the length. That's what most beginning golfers lack the most — length."

Marty Kavanaugh, head professional and director of golf for the Hamilton County

Park District's seven golf facilities, is excited about Meadow Links and Golf Academy. He hopes to follow the June 7 opening of the course by opening the practice facility in July.

He said the newest is similar but more extensive than his Little Miami Golf Center, which registers more golfers than even the 70,000-rounds-a-year Mill Course.

Kavanaugh said the featured nine-hole "mid-length" (not "executive") Meadow Links course is combined with a state-of-the-art driving range including 50 tees, 40 of which are heated and covered; a five-

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